

Translator's Foreword

The *Seosarok*—literally “Historical Record of the West” in English—is a travelogue written by the 5th-ranked nobleman Yi Jong-eung in 1902. The document details the journey of a diplomatic envoy sent by Korea’s Emperor Gojong to attend the coronation of King Edward VII in England.

Being Yi’s great-great-grandson, I was introduced to the *Seosarok* from a young age as a family heirloom. The travelogue captivated me, eventually becoming the impetus for my academic interest in history and international relations. The text has incredible scholarly value, providing insight into early Korean diplomatic relations with the West, as well as the sociopolitical landscape of the Korean Empire (1897-1910). However, the *Seosarok* was not made known to the public until 1999, corresponding with Queen Elizabeth II’s visit to South Korea. At this time, my family elders released the original *Seosarok*, written in *Hanja*—traditional Chinese characters—as well as a transliteration in *Hangul*—modern Korean.

Recognizing the value of this historical resource, in addition to understanding its limited reach as a Korean-language-only text, I began work on this English translation. The *Seosarok* details a Korean’s view of Western society during a time when the nation had little interaction with countries outside of East Asia. This glimpse into diplomacy between the short-lived Korean Empire and the West could become a useful resource for scholars working outside of the Korean language, and its potential fueled my desire to make the text more accessible to a wider audience. In this pursuit, I have chosen to make the completed translation an open-access digital resource so that there are no barriers to who may use and share it.

This English translation of the *Seosarok* includes a preface by Yi, detailing the purpose of the envoy to attend King Edward VII’s coronation. Yi lists the types of information he was commissioned to record during the journey, such as the cultures and environments of the various Western nations on their itinerary. Following the preface and initial entries about the delegation members, the text provides detailed descriptions of the envoy’s travels over 136 days, spanning a total of 12 different countries.

The translation process relied on my own fluency in both Korean and English, in addition to a few vital resources. It is important to note that this translation draws predominantly from transliterated *Hangul* versions of the *Seosarok*, with references to the primary source material when necessary. The main source used is a *Hangul* transliteration of the *Seosarok* by Professor Kim Won-mo of Dankook University, within his book *The Impact of the West and Anglo-Korean Cultural Exchange*. This source was supplemented with an open-access *Hangul* transliteration published on the Korean Digital Database Da Vinci Knowledge Map. Finally, when additional context was needed to translate sections properly, I referred to both scanned images of the

original Hanja manuscript owned by my family, as well as supplementary outside resources. One interesting event during my work was the discovery of a diary written by Prince Uiyang, the leader of the envoy. This record, entitled *Seocha Ilgi* or “Diary of a Journey to the West,” is still obscure even among academics, remaining largely unstudied. It is currently held by the National Digital Library of Korea, and cross-referencing excerpts of the prince’s writing greatly improved the quality of my Seosarok translation.

I am particularly grateful to my mentor, Ms. Alorah Saffran, for her guidance on this project. Ms. Saffran holds a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Columbia University, and she was available for any questions I had while translating the Seosarok. She also helped clarify unclear sections of the Hanja text, guided my contextual research, and reviewed my finished translation.

My priority in translating this travelogue was to keep the meaning as close to Yi Jong-eung’s original words as possible, with minimal subjective editing. As a result, many names of people or places might be unclear to the reader. In such cases, I conducted additional research to discover the historical facts of what Yi is describing and compiled the research into footnotes and a glossary for easier readability. All transliterations of Korean words included in the text follow the guidelines set by the Republic of Korea’s National Institute of Korean Language on the Romanization of Korean, except where names or titles already have a separate established academic spelling.

Although the contents of this travelogue are in the public domain, the original, handwritten text by Yi Jong-eung is unfortunately missing. The original manuscript, inherited by a distant cousin of my grandmother’s, was lost when that branch of the family emigrated to the United States. While my family has a photocopy of this manuscript, it is disappointing that the original travelogue cannot be located and made available to the Korean public. As an advocate for cultural repatriation efforts, I have been campaigning for the return of the Seosarok to South Korea. I see cultural artifacts as tools for learning how identity, memory, and power influence historical events, and I believe Korean citizens would benefit from the chance to study their heritage through physical artifacts like the Seosarok. My studies of cultural items and historical records have proven that artifacts do more than record history; they shape how nations see themselves and each other.

The Seosarok, being a travelogue that provides a historical view of Korea’s perception of the West, is a resource for our shared history. I believe the knowledge held in the text belongs to everyone, and I hope that my humble work of translating and contextualizing the travelogue may be of some use to scholars like me who are interested in cultural history.

- Junseo Choi, Descendant of Yi Jong-eung

Seosarok¹

The coronation ceremony for the Grand Prince of the British Empire is scheduled to take place in England in the summer of May, Sixth Year of Gwangmu's Reign², Lunar Year of *Imin*. To attend the coronation and commend the Grand Prince, Emperor Gojong dispatched a delegation led by Prince Uiyang, Yi Jae-gak. I was appointed executive secretary of the envoy and was responsible for recording public and private documents, financial records large and small, unusual topography such as mountains and streams, spectacular views, and the culture and customs of each Western country we would travel through on our journey. Although the writings recorded here may be very crude or humble, they were written diligently during a very busy time. I have compiled the records here in this book. I hope this book will be kept in the home so that the younger members of the family can read it to learn about the grandeur and hardships of our journey.

Lunar Year of Imin, Final Day of July, Yi Jong-eung

On January 30th, Sixth Year of Gwangmu's Reign, the imperial edict for sending envoys was withdrawn. At that time, Prince Wansun, Yi Jae-wan, had been scheduled to attend the coronation ceremony and offer congratulations; however, due to unforeseen circumstances, Yi Jae-wan was unable to go, and a royal edict was subsequently issued to Yi Jae-gak. The edict stated, "Because the auspicious coronation day of the Grand Prince of the British Empire and Emperor of India is not far off, I hereby appoint Prince Uiyang, Yi Jae-gak, as the special envoy to participate in the congratulatory ceremony at the designated time."

February 3rd, Sixth Year of Gwangmu's Reign (Lunar Year of *Sinchuk*³, December 25th)

Special Envoy: Prince Uiyang, Yi Jae-gak

March 22nd (Lunar Year of Imin, February 13th)

Special Envoy:

Secretary and 5th-Rank Nobleman, Yi Jong-eung

Yesinwon Chief of Translation, Go Hui-kyeong

Deputy Director of Translation, Kim Jo-hyeon

April 5th (Lunar Year of Imin, February 27th), Clear skies

¹ Historical Record of the West

² 1902

³ 1901

On the night before our departure, four of us visited the royal palace to give our farewell regards, but we were unable to meet with the king because it conflicted with his other official duties. At 7:30 p.m., our party received an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where British Minister-Resident Jordan was also present. Acting Foreign Minister Yu Gi-hwan, Vice Minister Choe Yeong-ha, Director of the Bureau of Negotiations Yi Eung-ik, and several others were also in attendance to congratulate us on our journey overseas and to share a farewell meal. After exchanging in an open conversation, we said our goodbyes. We went once again to the palace gate, but the outer gate had already been locked for the night. After a short while, we presented our identification tablets and entered the palace to give our farewells to His Majesty.

6th⁴ (28th), Clear skies after some rain during the night

At 2 a.m., the four of us entered the palace for an audience with His Majesty, where we received the letter of imperial command. Together with the members of the envoy, I took the imperial command to the *Pyohunwon*, where we turned it in and rested for the night. At 11 a.m., we headed to Donuimun Station at Seodaemun and boarded the train at 12 p.m. Foreign Minister Yu Gi-hwan, Vice Minister Choe Yeong-ha, and several other noblemen came out to see us off. Our party, including about ten relatives and acquaintances, rode the train and arrived at the port of Incheon at 2 p.m. There, we were received by the Incheon Commissioner, Ha Sang-gi, and arranged lodging at the Itae Inn run by Chinamen Yi Tae, where we dropped off our luggage. At night, Chairman of the Privy Council, Kim Ga-jin, and Secretary Seo Byeong-suk came to see us despite the rain. After spending some time together reminiscing, each of us returned to our lodgings.

7th (29th), Clear skies and then thick fog

At 9 a.m., the four members of our party left the inn and headed to the harbor. The British Consul, H. Goffe, had arrived and was waiting to join us as an advisor to our party. After exchanging handshakes and greetings, we all boarded the steamship. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, J. McLeavy Brown, came along in a small boat with several other acquaintances to see us off where the Russian steamship *Roni* was anchored. After we all said our farewells, the whistle sounded twice, and our ship set sail. Then, the four of us each went into our separate cabins.

The bedding and curtains in the cabin were arranged quite neatly and cleanly. After a brief rest, I went up onto the deck and strolled about at leisure, closely observing the ship's decorations, the grandeur of its machinery, and its meticulous scale and construction, although I do not believe

⁴ Starting from here, the author omits the name of the month for each entry. He only includes the month name on the first day of each month, both of the Gregorian and Lunar calendars.

such things can be properly expressed through this hurried writing. After a while, a bell rang twice, and the British Consul Goffe came to inform us that it was dinner time.

We adjusted our attire accordingly and entered the dining hall to take our seats. The dining table was arranged neatly with clean tableware set out in an orderly fashion. Dozens of Western men, women, and children sat together at the same table to share the meal. The food was served in several courses, with tea offered as the final course before the conclusion of the meal. Upon leaving the dining hall, we entered the smoking room to smoke and relieve our stifled feelings. This same routine was repeated three times each day. Each time I heard the sound of the ship's moving machinery, I thought, "How diligently it labors on, working day and night without rest. I could almost compare it to the unending, devoted movements of the Way of Heaven." I often thought to myself, "It seems as though the work of Heaven is being carried out by human beings."

8th (March 1st), Clear skies

At 1 p.m., rain poured down in torrents, even knocking over flowerpots. The four of us wandered about on the upper deck, and upon looking southward, we saw several mountain peaks appearing and disappearing above the waves. When we asked a crew member about it, he told us it was Jeju's Mount Halla.

9th (2nd), Cloudy and then clear skies

We arrived at the port of Nagasaki in Japan at 8 a.m. A police officer of the port, along with a soldier, came aboard the ship to check whether any passengers had suspicious illnesses. After checking, they granted us permission to disembark. At 11 a.m., we went ashore and checked in at a Western-style inn in Nagasaki. We then sent a telegram to the palace, informing them of our safe arrival, as well as letters to our homes.

10th (3rd), Clear skies and windy

After sunset, the four of us went out into the streets and strolled around at leisure. The roads were clean without a speck of dust or filth. Boundaries between small ditches and larger streams were clearly defined, and rare trees and beautiful flowers were arranged neatly along the road, providing cool shade. The shops of the marketplace stood in long rows, densely packed side-by-side, and abundant goods were piled up like mountains. We passed venues where people sang and played, and where men and women mingled in cheerful merriment; the atmosphere appeared peaceful. The ships in the harbor were lined up like reeds, and at night, hundreds and thousands of dazzling lantern lights shone upon the water's surface.

11th (4th), Cloudy and clear skies

Our party was sightseeing when we arrived at an old Buddhist temple⁵ at 2 p.m. A large stone stele stood outside the temple gate. Engraved on the front of the stele were four characters, "*Su Wa Tai Sha*," with two more characters, "*Go Hei*," written horizontally above them. At the top of the stairs was a gate with pillars of bronze, the style resembling the *hongsalmun* of our country. Its height was about four to five *jang*⁶, and the circumference of the pillars was about two *areum*⁷ with large numerals, "1896," written above them. The names of the contributors to the gate's construction were also recorded there. At each tier of steps stood a gate, and a signboard reading "Su Wa Tai Sha" hung from the gate at the very top. Past the gate stood a bronze horse, very large in stature, while two bronze lions stood on either side of the steps to the main hall. It is impossible to record in proper detail all the various strange and unusual objects we saw there.

The stone railings and pagodas were extremely simple and unadorned, while the natural scenery, decorated with ancient trees, thickly entwined vines, lush bamboo groves, and unusual flowers, was dark and secluded. To the east, there stood a neat and tidy house upon a stone terrace. As we leisurely walked toward the house, we found several chairs and tables set up beneath the shade of green trees. We sat in a circle, and two beautiful women approached, bowed, and served us beer. While drinking both alcohol and tea, we exchanged casual conversation and strolled about the surroundings. When we were ready to leave, we paid the two women a small amount of silver coins, which they accepted gratefully.

12th (5th), Clear skies

At 12 noon, we departed from the port of Nagasaki. We boarded the French merchant ship *Ingdwiseu*. About half of the crew manning the machinery on deck and in the hold were Black people⁸. Today, the wind and waves rose violently. At 11 p.m., we passed through Magwan.

13th (6th), Clear skies

The wind died down, and the rough waves subsided. In the afternoon, we arrived at the port of Kobe. Because our schedule was tight, we were unable to disembark from the ship. Instead, we observed the layout of the harbor from aboard the ship, and its scale seemed quite different from that of Nagasaki.

⁵ The author is mistaken; the party was actually at a Shinto temple.

⁶ 4-5 *jang* is equal to about 12.12 - 15.15 meters.

⁷ 2 *areum* is roughly 3.4 meters.

⁸ Although the author writes Black people, it is highly unlikely that Black people would be part of the crew on a ship in this area. It is more likely that the author is referring to people with darker complexions than he is used to seeing in Korea.

14th (7th), Clear skies

At 7 a.m., our steamship departed from Kobe. The wind was gentle and the waves were calm, so the voyage proceeded smoothly. Countless sailing ships appeared and disappeared on the vast open sea, coming and going. At 3 p.m., the wind and waves began to pick up quickly, so the voyage became less comfortable.

15th (8th), Clear skies

At 9 a.m., we arrived at the port of Yokohama and checked into the Grand Hotel, an inn run by an American merchant. We sent a telegram to the palace and also mailed letters home.

16th (9th), Clear skies

The acting Foreign Minister to Japan, Yu Chan, came to visit, so we spent half the day catching up. After eating lunch together, we parted ways.

17th (10th), Clear skies

A gathering for cherry blossom viewing was held at the royal beachside villa in Tokyo, Japan. Upon receiving an invitation to attend from the Minister of the Imperial Household in accordance with an imperial decree, I went to the gathering together with Go Hui-kyeong.

18th (11th), Clear skies

It started raining at 7 p.m.

19th (12th), Rain

After raining, it cleared up at 9 a.m.

20th (13th), Clear skies

On this day, the weather was warm and the wind was gentle, so we took our lunch up to the stone terrace west of the dining hall. Looking out over the sea, we saw three boats floating by. About ten people were aboard each boat: those on the first boat wore red clothing, those on the second boat wore green, and those on the third wore white. Each boat was lined up in a row with another small steamship behind, where dozens of passengers held up red, green, or white flags. Suddenly, a cannon sounded once, and the three boats began rowing in unison; they seemed to fly as they raced to the hill on the opposite shore. The people on the small steamboat cheered for the racing

boats while waving their colored flags. The three rowboats surged forward in conjunction, competing fiercely. The boat that reached the hill on the opposite shore first was the winner. When we asked a local about the spectacle, he replied, "This is a racing match. Students from different schools divide up into teams and compete in the sport. The people on the small steamship serve as judges, overseeing which boat takes the lead, falls behind, wins, or loses. It's a general custom that has been adopted from the West, and it's a beautiful event." There were many spectators watching the race from the hillside along the shore.

21st (14th), Cloudy and clear skies

I mailed a letter home.

22nd (15th), Clear skies

The owner of a clothing shop in Tokyo came to take our measurements for formal attire, checking the length, height, and build of each of the four of us before leaving. Minister Yu Chan came to visit, and we chatted and caught up. At 3 p.m., the four members of our party rode in a carriage along the main road and entered a park to admire the flowers. We also saw a horse racetrack, the scale of which was magnificent. After that, we rode about in the carriage, traveling back and forth along the roads and sightseeing at leisure. The road was smooth, and the sight of houses large and small arranged neatly alongside was splendid. Even in the small seaside villages with just a few thatched houses, birdcages were hung in front, which gave the scene a certain charm. As we went along, we came upon a place where a small Buddhist hermitage sat upon the mountain peak. We disembarked from the carriage, took up walking sticks, and climbed up the mountain; the path was, in fact, quite even. The Buddhist temple was tidy, and beneath the eaves hung a signboard bearing three large characters, reading "*Shiro Taki Yama*."⁹ To the left of the temple was a waterfall, and the four of us wandered around the area for a while before settling down to drink beer and eat *bingsu*¹⁰. After chatting leisurely, we returned to the inn.

23rd (16th), Cloudy

24th (17th), Rain

25th (18th), Clear skies

Minister Yu Chan came to visit, and we chatted throughout the day. We had dinner together before he said his goodbyes and left.

⁹ This is the name of the mountain. The characters on the sign literally translate to "White Waterfall Mountain."

¹⁰ The author writes *bingsu*, which is a traditional Korean dessert, but it is more likely that they were eating a similar Japanese dessert.

26th (19th), Rain

27th (20th), Rain

28th (21st), Clear skies

Passing the days idly had made us feel somewhat gloomy, so the four members of our party took a carriage and rode out to the seaside. Upon our arrival, we saw that construction was being carried out to reclaim land from the sea and build a pier. The mountains were being cut away to construct embankments, and a passage was being created via a temporary floating bridge. Water flowed through the sluice gates, and we could not help but marvel at the scale of the water passing through the gates as it swirled and twisted.

29th (22nd), Cloudy and rain

30th (23rd), Clear skies

I sent a letter home.

May 1st (24th), Clear skies

Minister Yu Chan came and stayed the night with us, then boarded a ship the next day and took his leave. Our party had stayed in Yokohama for 18 days, as our clothing and belongings were not yet ready, and the date of the ship's departure had already been set. On this day, we sent a telegram to the palace to report our departure.

2nd (25th), Cloudy

At 12 noon, we boarded the British ship *Ampuraswi* and set sail across the Pacific Ocean. On board, military music was played. It was said that according to Western customs, dinner is regarded as an especially important meal, so such music was played regularly for the evening banquet. At 8 p.m. that day, the wind and waves rose violently, and the ship pitched sharply. The passengers staggered around like drunken people, and some suffered from acute seasickness and vomited, all of which was quite a sight to behold.

3rd (26th), Cloudy

The wind and waves were just as severe as yesterday. We sailed 380 British nautical miles¹¹.

4th (27th), Clear skies

The rough seas continued. Because the force of the ocean was so great, waves arose on their own, even without wind. We sailed 363 nautical miles.

5th (28th), Cloudy

The waves and swells were the same as yesterday. At 11 a.m., a bit of snow fell. We sailed 361 nautical miles.

6th (29th), Cloudy

The wind and waves did not cease. We sailed 359 nautical miles.

7th (30th), Cloudy

The wind and waves subsided slightly, but the weather alternated between wind and rain. The temperature became extremely cold. We sailed 362 nautical miles.

8th (April 1st), Cloudy

The wind and waves persist. We sailed 351 nautical miles.

9th (2nd), Cloudy

The wind and waves were the same as yesterday. The ship's captain, *Ma Se-eul*, came to ask us about each day's weather and then went up to the deck. Upon observing the Western forms of amusement, they appear to involve hitting, punching, groaning, and strenuous exertion. We sailed 341 nautical miles.

10th (3rd), Cloudy

The wind and waves have somewhat subsided. There is a saying, "Looking out over the immense ocean, it is difficult to call it mere water." At 4 p.m., bells suddenly rang out several times, and the ship became noisy. I heard that a fire had accidentally broken out on board. Alarmed, I went to the upper deck to find out and saw hundreds of crew members with water containers,

¹¹ One British nautical mile is equal to about 1,852 meters. The measurement was based on one minute of latitude along a meridian, and the author uses the term "nautical mile" in all further entries to mean this same measurement.

firefighting tools, and ladders, busily moving up and down to extinguish a fire. According to a different whistle signal blown from the upper deck, the firefighting drill had come to an end. When I asked someone about it in more detail, I found out that it was not an actual fire, but a drill to maintain vigilance and prevent such accidents. This seemed to be their general level of vigilance toward such things.

11th (4th), Fog in the morning, clear skies in the evening

The wind died down, and the waves became calm. We sailed 359 nautical miles.

12th (5th), Clear skies

The color of the sea water was as dark as black ink. The voyage was calm. We sailed 357 nautical miles.

13th (6th), Clear skies

14th (7th), Rain in the morning, clear skies in the evening

Since our departure from Yokohama, we spent thirteen days on the boundless, vast ocean. At 7 a.m., we at last caught sight of land as the ship entered the port of Victoria on Vancouver Island, Canada. Although it was the land of a foreign country, it felt as if our eyes were suddenly wide open. Medical officers of the port of Victoria came aboard and examined the passengers for any sign of illness. At 11 a.m., we boarded a steamship and set out again for the Canadian mainland, arriving at the port of Vancouver. The port of Vancouver was densely populated with bustling markets of such a grand scale that it is difficult to record it here properly. At 4 p.m., we went to an inn where we rested for the night.

15th (8th), Clear skies

We sent a telegram to the palace reporting our safe arrival, and we also sent letters home.

16th (9th), After morning rain, it cleared up in the evening

At 2 p.m., we boarded a train bound for Quebec and passed through Baker. Here, the mountain ridges are extremely high, and the railway line winds along the terrain from the port of Vancouver to Mount Baker. At times, the train passes over elevated bridges and embankments; at other times, it pierces through mountains, running through tunnels as it travels for thousands of

*ri*¹². Is this not harmony between human ingenuity and the power of nature? One could say that Heaven created the rivers and mountains, and humans created the railroad.

Upon reaching the base of Mount Baker, we looked over countless mountain peaks rising in confusion, towering as if to pierce the sky, while pure white clouds wrapped around the mountainsides. Our eyes were filled with rare and beautiful trees and exotic flowers, shining with dazzling brilliance. Above, there were green mountains and clear waters, while below, icy water flowed like white snow in a truly extraordinary scene. At times, the sound of the valley streams was gentle, and the voices of birds rang softly, making the scenery all the more enchanting. From the cliffs, waterfalls seemed to pour down in torrents, and the waters from this valley and that all came together, crashing loudly as they overflowed past cliffs like the stones of a tomb in such magnitude that it was impossible to measure. All day long, we were captivated by this wondrous natural landscape; I lost count of how many times we clapped and cheered, and truly, such clumsy writing as this cannot fully express it.

When the train reached the summit of Mount Baker, we were told that the terrain there stood some 5,420 *yeo*¹³ higher than the port. The waters divide at the mountaintop, flowing east and west: those that flow west empty into the Pacific Ocean, while those that flow east run into the Atlantic. After leaving Mount Baker, vast plains stretched out for thousands of *ri*¹⁴, and we passed through various stations where we could see rural villages. Ranches were scattered throughout, and herds of cattle, horses, and sheep grazed freely. The fields were being plowed and sown with seeds. The custom in this region was to plow the field using horses; sometimes a single horse was harnessed to the yoke, and other times two horses were harnessed together to plow the land.

17th (10th), Clear skies

18th (11th), Cloudy

At 2 p.m., we arrived at Winnipeg Station. We got off the train and strolled leisurely through the streets. The households were prosperous and the goods were abundant, comparable to those of Vancouver. We were 1,826 *ri*¹⁵ away from the port of Vancouver.

19th (12th), Cloudy

¹² One thousand *ri* is equal to roughly 390 kilometers.

¹³ 5,420 *yeo* is equal to 5,420 "cartloads."

¹⁴ One thousand *ri* is equal to roughly 390 kilometers.

¹⁵ 1,826 *ri* is equal to roughly 712 kilometers.

At 8 a.m., after traveling some 2,000 ri¹⁶ east from the port of Vancouver, we came upon a huge lake. The lake was called Lake Superior. The lake was so vast with no end, resembling a wide ocean. Steamships can easily navigate the lake, so it is the largest lake in the world¹⁷. The water tastes sweet and nice, and the rocks on the mountain above are all a reddish-purple color. Measured according to our country's ri, the lake is said to be over 1,000 ri¹⁸ long and 500 ri¹⁹ wide. In total, there are three such lakes, collectively called the Great Lakes²⁰.

20th (13th), Cloudy

The train traveled at a speed of over 400 miles²¹ per day. We effectively spent six days eating and sleeping in train cars. At 12 noon today, we disembarked and checked into an inn (name unknown), where we hurriedly ate breakfast. At 3 p.m., we arrived at Toronto Station, where we went to another inn for lunch. The four members of our party then took a carriage out onto the city's main street. Numerous high-rise buildings lined the streets, and the population was immense. We heard that the population size has reached 220,000, and that there are so many schools of various levels that it is impossible to know them all. At 4 p.m., we boarded the train again and reached Niagara Station, where we spent another night on the train.

21st (14th), Cloudy

At 7 a.m., the four of us took a carriage to Canada's Niagara Falls, the horseshoe-shaped waterfall located near the border with the United States of America. This place lies at the border between British Canada and the United States; the land itself belongs to the United States. [The Niagara River]²² starts at the three major lakes I mentioned earlier and flows all the way down to connect here and pour down this waterfall. The source of the water extends for over a thousand ri²³, and its force is immense. Here, the waterway is narrow, and the stone cliffs on either side span only several dozen *kan*²⁴ in width. Because the shape of this waterfall resembles a horse hoof, it is called "Horseshoe Falls." There were about a hundred steep cliffs that looked as if the stone walls were suddenly cut away, and the water strikes against them as it cascades downward, appearing as if the mountain collapses while the ground splits apart. The force of the current collides with itself, and at one moment the water shines blue, the next moment it shines red, as if

¹⁶ 2,000 ri is equal to roughly 780 kilometers.

¹⁷ The Caspian Sea is commonly regarded as the largest lake in the world, although Lake Superior is considered to be the second largest.

¹⁸ 1,000 ri is equal to roughly 390 kilometers.

¹⁹ 500 ri is equal to roughly 195 kilometers.

²⁰ The author mistakenly writes that there are three Great Lakes (Lake Superior, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan). In reality, there are five Great Lakes, including Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

²¹ 400 miles is equal to roughly 644 kilometers.

²² Although not expressly stated here, the author implies that the water from Niagara Falls comes from the Niagara River.

²³ 1,000 ri is equal to roughly 390 kilometers.

²⁴ One dozen kan is equal to roughly 32 meters.

hundreds of rainbows were hanging in the air. On the surface of the blue river beneath the falls, the white spray fills the sky like white snow in a truly spectacular sight. Four or five iron bridges are hung clearly across the river, looking like long rainbows drinking from the water. Railways run alongside each bank, with trains coming and going. People travel up and down the river in steamboats of various sizes, while along the roads on either side, lines of carriages stretch onward. It seems as if the number of daily visitors here must reach into the thousands. On the southern bank of the river, there stood a building tens of stories high.

The four of us climbed up this tall building, and when we leaned against the railing and looked down, hazy mist filled our eyes so that for a moment we forgot the hardships of traveling to a distant, foreign land. Before long, the owner of the building came and brought us four sets of upper and outer garments and told us to wear them. Not fully comprehending his intention, we accepted the garments and put them on. The owner then led the way and guided us to the riverbank, where there was a small iron hut. He invited us to enter the hut, and when we did, the sound of operating machinery suddenly began inside. The iron structure descended dozens of jang²⁵ underground before coming to a stop. The owner walked out first and beckoned us to follow him, and we stepped out into a pitch-black cave. We walked for about a hundred paces through the underground cavern and toward a place where sunlight seemed to enter. Suddenly, a thunderous roar like tens of thousands of peals of thunder resounded above our heads, and spray came down like a blizzard, scattering wildly and startling the eyes and ears. When we looked properly, we realized that we were standing beneath the cliff of the waterfall. As each of us was frightened, we could not remain there for long. We turned back the way we had come, and when we emerged outside and looked at each other, we realized that we all looked like beasts that had been fighting in the mud. The path that the owner guided us through was one where a tunnel had been carved into the southern bank beneath the waterfall, leading directly to it. After this, we straightened out our attire and walked several dozen paces along the river, where there was a photography studio. With the waterfall as the backdrop, the four of us took a commemorative photograph before returning to board the train for the port of Quebec. <After returning from the mission to Britain and reporting to the royal court, this passage was entered into the national historical record.>

22nd (15th), Clear skies

At 8 a.m., we arrived at Montreal Station and went to the railway company inn, where we rested briefly. The four of us then rode in a carriage to tour the city; it is said that the population here is 300,000. That evening, we went to a theater and watched a play.

23rd (16th), Cloudy, and then clear skies

²⁵ One dozen jang is equal to roughly 36 meters.

24th (17th), Clear skies at first, then rain

At 2 p.m., we once again boarded the train and arrived in Quebec at 7 p.m., where we went to an inn and stayed for the night. The population of the port is said to be over 300,000.

25th (18th), Cloudy

At 2 p.m., we went out for a tour by carriage, and after going 18 ri²⁶ west of the port, we came upon a waterfall. The rock face from which the water fell was formed with three tiers, making it a fine sight to behold. The color of the water was yellowish, and when we asked a local person, they told us this was due to the amount of coalstone in the upper reaches of the river, which gave the water a yellow tint. Beside the waterfall was an animal enclosure. There were four animals called bison. Their bodies were large and covered entirely in black hair, and their horns were several *cheok*²⁷ in length. From their heads down to beneath their necks and jaws, they were covered in long, tangled hair, which gave them a very fierce and wild appearance. They became agitated at the sight of people, and the sound of them snorting through their noses rumbled faintly like distant thunder. When we asked a local about the animals, we were told that they have a fierce and wild nature, and their strength is extremely great, so they sometimes harm people. For this reason, they hunt the bison species and only keep these four in captivity.

To the east and west of the port, there are some old fortifications and ramparts, where ten cannons have been installed at their tops. As this was a location where the Anglo-American War (1812-1814) once occurred, it is preserved as a historic battlefield. At 8 p.m., in preparation for our journey across the Atlantic Ocean, we boarded the British steamship *Numiria*.

26th (19th), Cloudy and rain

27th (20th), Foggy

We sailed 250 nautical miles.

28th (21st), Foggy

A thick, dense fog filled all directions. When such a heavy fog sets in during navigation, it is said that the ship frequently sounds its horn from the funnel to avoid submerged reefs and prevent collisions with other vessels passing by. We sailed 250 nautical miles.

29th (22nd), Dense fog

²⁶ 18 ri is equal to roughly 7 kilometers.

²⁷ One cheok is equal to roughly 30.3 centimeters.

We sailed 270 nautical miles.

30th (23rd), Dense fog

We sailed 291 nautical miles.

31st (24th), Dense fog

We sailed 280 nautical miles.

June 1st (25th), Cloudy

The wind and waves rose up, and the ship pitched violently. We sailed 270 nautical miles.

2nd (26th), Cloudy

The wind and waves rose up high. We sailed 235 nautical miles.

3rd (27th), Cloudy

The wind and waves were particularly severe, and the ship was tossed about as it was swept up in the waves. Mountain-like, raging waves surged, and when they struck the ship, they rose up high into the sky and then fell down like a sudden downpour. Because of this, no one could go up onto the deck. We sailed 245 nautical miles.

4th (28th), Clear skies

The wind was somewhat weaker than yesterday, but the waves still troubled us greatly. After some rain passed at 2 p.m., the wind became much calmer.

5th (29th), Cloudy, then clear skies

At 2 a.m., we passed the port of Ireland. We sent a telegram to Min Yeong-don, the Korean minister to Britain, informing him of our arrival. At 8 p.m., we arrived at the port of Liverpool. Yi Han-eung, a secretary of the Korean Legation in Britain, and *Posyeonbui*, a secretary of the British Foreign Office, came out to receive us. We spent the night at the *Adeulbui* Hotel and sent a telegram back to the palace reporting our arrival in Britain.

6th (May 1st), Clear skies

We boarded the train at 9 a.m. and arrived at London Station at 2 p.m. An official from the British royal court, dressed in formal attire, came out by carriage to receive our party. He greeted us very warmly and kindly with a handshake, escorted us to the Westminster Palace Hotel, and then departed. Korean Minister to Britain Min Yeong-don, along with Secretary Oh Dal-yeong, Clerk Yi Gi-hyeon, and student Yun Gi-ik, came to visit us. We spent half the day engaging in pleasant conversation before they left. Morgan, the Honorary Korean Consul General of Britain, also came to greet us.

7th (2nd), Cloudy and rain

According to the general Western customs, when there is a major national celebration, it is common for each country to dispatch royal representatives and congratulatory delegations. Upon arriving, the government rents a large hotel and turns it into a designated guesthouse, providing all food and services, and then dismantles the guesthouse when the foreign delegations leave. The British customs office granted us duty-free clearance for all the luggage brought by our delegation, which was a preferential courtesy extended to us.

8th (3rd), Cloudy and rain

At 6 p.m., the four members of our party visited the Korean Legation for dinner before returning to our hotel for the night. We also received a letter from Yi Beom-jin, the Korean Minister to Russia.

9th (4th), Cloudy and rain

At 3 p.m., the four of us set out on a carriage tour of the city of London, together with the Korean Minister to Britain, Min Yeong-don. Along the broad roads, towering multi-story buildings rose high, making it feel as if we had left the dust of the world behind. Stone walls, dozens of *gil*²⁸ tall, seemed to stand in neat succession without the slightest deviation, each one resembling the next. The hotels and inns were of the same caliber as palaces, and the roads were paved with stone slabs. Pedestrians brushed each other's shoulders as they passed, and carriage wheels nearly touched one another. Even Linzi, the capital of Ancient Qi during the Warring States Period, could not have been more bustling than this.

There were also rules governing how to travel along the roads in the capital. Carriages were designated to pass through the center of the wide main roads, while pedestrians walked along the stone paths on either side. When a pedestrian wished to cross the street, they would stand beneath a roadside signal post. A constable would raise his hand to the main road and use his

²⁸ One gil is roughly the height of an average person, so this means "dozens of people tall."

fingers to signal to the carriages, urging those in front to move past quickly and those behind to stop. After briefly pausing the flow of carriages, the pedestrians were able to cross. We heard that if it were not regulated this way, then accidents of people being crushed under carriages or horses' hooves would occur frequently.

After traveling for quite some time, we arrived at the zoo. Lush, thriving trees stood in dense rows along neat and orderly roads. The ground was covered in flowers and grasses, the fragrant scent filling the air. Inside the iron railings and enclosures were an assortment of birds, land animals, fish, and even crustaceans—altogether forming a grand rhapsody of birds and beasts. For example, there were warrior heroes like tigers and leopards, formidable rhinoceroses and elephants, sturdy camels, nimble monkeys, and even hippopotamuses, dolphins, deer, roe deer, foxes, wolves, cats, mice, frogs, and toads. Indeed, all types of creatures were assembled in one place.

There was one animal with a single horn covered in flesh at the top. Its tail was like that of an ox, its hooves were like a horse's, and its body was roughly the size of an ox. They call this animal a *girin*²⁹. It is said that the girin comes from India. I wonder, if this is true, does that mean there are also sages in the West?

Among the birds were mandarin ducks, peacocks, parrots, kingfishers, and pheasants and chickens from various regions—not to mention countless mountain and water birds, too many to record them all here. In the middle of a pond stood a large rock, and there were various fish and soft-shelled turtles. In a separately constructed pond carved through the rock, there were four large fish. These creatures were said to be extremely fierce and vicious, so they were kept confined separately. Upon closer inspection, I saw that they had four legs and their eyes were bluish and reddish. When I asked the attendant, he said they were called crocodiles. Seeing them reminded me of Han Yu's *Proclamation to the Crocodiles*. From this, I can understand how difficult it is to tame such creatures.

There was also a large snake, over three or four kan³⁰ in length, with a body as thick as a pillar. Its skin shone with brilliant, multicolored hues, and its eyes resembled blazing torches. It fed exclusively on flesh, and once it had eaten its fill, it would sleep for the next six or seven days. Because they said this snake comes from tropical regions and cannot tolerate the cold, they supplied it with steam and hung a thermometer to regulate the temperature inside its enclosure.

10th (5th), Cloudy

²⁹ The author is not referring to a giraffe (the modern meaning of the Korean word girin), but rather a mythical creature with the same name.

³⁰ Three or four kan is equal to roughly 8.1 to 10.8 meters.

The four of us went out onto a large street. We entered one of the jewelry shops, where there was so much gold, jade, and precious stones that the amount could be measured in *mal* and *doe*³¹. The ornaments, trinkets, toys, and various handcrafted decorative items were so exquisite and unusual that only a ghost would be able to record them all accurately in writing. We heard that there are over 80 shops of this kind.

At 7 p.m., we went to the circus. The venue was enormous, a five-story building. The railings were rounded like a half-moon on its side. Gold, green, red, and blue lights shone brilliantly, dazzling the eyes. Thousands of spectators sat in orderly rows within the railings. In the front, a stage had been set up, and the music played on a rotation—at once magnificent and bold, yet also clear and bright. Dozens of beautiful women came out in pairs, dressed in gold, silver, and precious jewels, and they performed all kinds of marvelous feats. As they stepped forward and back, they also bent their bodies inward and stretched outward. Whether positioned together or apart, they were never disorganized or incoherent, moving with remarkable coordination and harmony.

The sound of the music was delicate and graceful, like countless parrots competing to sing among thousands of willow branches. The flowing sleeves of the dancers were light and gentle, resembling butterflies fluttering in confusion above peach and plum blossoms in the spring breeze. A brilliant silver gleam flashed like the glint of a blade, like a plum blossom fluttering and then falling in the wind. The chime of metal rang out clearly, and then a group of young women appeared on the stage. The way they moved back and forth was like a perfectly ordered army, as if they were celebrating after having defeated an enemy in battle.

Later, five or six burly men came out and stood facing one another. Suddenly, one man leapt up and climbed onto the shoulders of the man opposite him. Another man came forward, went back and forth two or three times, and all at once sprang up to stand upon the shoulders of the first man who jumped. Then a small boy of about 12 or 13 years old came out. After moving back and forth in front of the men, he suddenly leapt up to stand on the shoulders of the man at the very top. The way they jumped up and down, front and back, was like birds rising and falling in flight—it was truly astonishing.

Suddenly, the stage changed, and the thunderous sound of the sea filled the hall. Upon vast, surging waves, steamships seemed to move back and forth. At other times, trains appeared to race like lightning across open plains, deep mountains, and long valleys. At yet another moment, it seemed as though horses at a racetrack were competing to outpace one another, while the spectators felt as if they themselves were moving along with them. These were said to be called moving pictures, skillfully created and operated through the power of electricity. At times,

³¹ Mal and doe are measurements usually used for large volumes, such as rice and other grains. The author is emphasizing the large quantity of precious jewels and metals.

monkeys performed tricks according to human instructions, and parrots danced in time with the music. If it were not for the stringent training and taming of the animals, such a performance would not have been possible.

At the end, an image of the British emperor appeared solemnly on the screen, and all the spectators rose at once and respectfully paid their regards before departing. This practice likely signifies that they do not forget the benevolence of the British sovereign.

11th (6th), Cloudy

12th (7th), Rain

We went to the Korean Legation at 2 p.m. and returned at 4 p.m.

13th (8th), Rain

At 2 p.m., an official of the British court came in a royal carriage and requested that we enter the palace for an audience with the king. Accordingly, the four of us, along with Minister Min Yeong-don, put on our formal attire and set out for the palace. Outside of the palace, various officials were assembled, and the court official received our party at the fourth gate. For a short while, we sat in the waiting hall, where carved jewels and gold-thread decorations dazzled the eyes. After a moment, the court official summoned us to enter. As we proceeded through the second gate, guards stood motionless at each doorway, wearing conical hats and holding spears, with their heads held high like swans. At last, we reached the audience hall. The emperor had stepped down from the throne and stood waiting with the foreign minister and four or five attendants. We entered, bowed deeply while standing, and lowered our heads. After advancing a few more steps, we performed the same formalities and presented our credentials to the British king.

The British emperor extended his hand for a handshake and said, “You have come a long way across many thousands of ri³² by sea, was your journey comfortable?”

We replied, “Thanks to the virtue of Your Majesty’s orders, our party was able to make the crossing safely.”

The emperor then asked, “Is the Great Emperor of your country in good health?”

We answered, “He is in good health.”

³² 1,000 ri is equal to roughly 390 kilometers.

He went on to say, “I am deeply moved that your Great Emperor has dispatched a special envoy to come from afar and inquire after my well-being, and I hope that the friendship between our two countries will grow ever stronger.”

The British emperor had a generous countenance and white hair, and his face was filled with an air of benevolence.

The royal palace of Britain was vast in scale and magnificent in splendor. In ancient times, Mencius, upon seeing the residence of the king of the State of Qi, exclaimed, “How grand this dwelling is!” One might say that the Qi of old is none other than today’s Britain.

After the ceremony of the presentation of the state letter was concluded, we returned to our hotel, where an invitation from the British Lord Chamberlain, *Sambideullang*³³, had arrived for us. At 10 p.m., the four members of our party, dressed in full formal attire, entered the palace. There were two-story pavilions and numerous inner gates, each hung with silk draperies. Led by an attendant wearing a conical hat and carrying a silver staff, we followed to the audience hall of the British emperor and empress. The four walls were adorned with embroidered silk, and the ridge beams and eaves were decorated with gold thread. The banquet tables were splendid, the lamps and candles shone brilliantly, and the sound of music resonated like thunder. Truly, one could say, “How grand this dwelling is!” Is the Qi of old none other than today’s Britain?

That night, there were some five to six hundred high-ranking officials and their wives who had come to pay their respects. The noblewomen were dressed in embroidered silk garments and adorned with jewels, and the air was filled with fragrance. After performing the formal rites of audience and withdrawing, we were led by an attendant to a room where separate tables had been set, and wine and food were offered. After receiving this hospitality, we returned to our lodgings. The Japanese minister had entered the palace and paid his respects the previous day, but he did not attend the banquet that night. The Qing minister was in attendance. Today, we sent a telegram back to the palace.

14th (9th), Cloudy, then rain

15th (10th), It’s cloudy

At 2 p.m., we went to the Korean Legation and spent some time in amicable conversation before returning.

16th (11th), Cloudy

³³ This seems to be a Hangul transliterated version of the position “Chamberlain.” The author seems to mistake the word as the man’s name. Hereafter, the correctly phrased position of “Lord Chamberlain” will be used.

At 2 p.m., the British Lord Chamberlain and his deputy *Ilnuisseu* left their calling cards outside the door of our lodging. At 3 p.m., we took the royal carriage out on an excursion. We arrived at the national bank, where thirty soldiers stood guard outside the entrance. The iron gate was extremely large, with two locks—one above and one below—which were both fastened. Only when two people, each holding a key, opened the locks simultaneously could one enter. Inside, it was pitch-black like the dead of night inside a cave.

Shortly after, the electric lights were turned on, and the cave-like room appeared to be about a dozen kan³⁴ in size on all sides. There were shelves arranged in three tiers: on the top tier were gold coins, on the middle tier silver coins, and on the lower tier paper money. There were also gold bars, each one about the size of a wooden pillow. Large gold ingots were spread out across the shelves, so numerous that they were impossible to count. On both the left and right sides, iron chests and wooden chests were lined up in rows. When I asked how much money a single chest contained, I was told it was over 290 million *won*³⁵.

There were two large balance scales and coin-minting machines. On top of the machines was a turning needle, which rotated according to the quantity of currency; using this, they could determine the number of banknotes produced. There was also a cart for transporting gold, or *taegeumcha*, which held 24 gold ingots. Each ingot weighs roughly four hundred *nyang*³⁶, and this is said to be the approximate amount of banknotes exchanged in a single day.

We heard that if someone uses paper money for private enterprises and they suffer an unexpected loss through flood or fire, they can submit a certificate of loss or physical evidence (such as charred remains or water-damaged fragments) to be fully reimbursed. The certificate of loss is kept inside a glass container to be used as a record later, which shows the level of trust between the authorities and the people.

The names of the British emperor, empress, crown prince, and others were all recorded, as well as the names of notable figures such as Li Hongzhang of Qing, Prince Komatsu Akihito of Japan, and several other distinguished individuals. After touring the bank and coming out, the bank manager came forward to pay his respects, and all the bank employees saluted when we entered and left.

17th (12th), Cloudy, then clear skies

³⁴ One dozen kan is equal to roughly 32 meters.

³⁵ 290 million won is equal to about 7.25 trillion won today, or roughly 4.8 billion USD.

³⁶ 400 *nyang* is equal to roughly 15,000 grams.

We sent calling cards to the palace of the British emperor's younger brother and to the Foreign Office. At 2 p.m., the four of us went to visit Madame Tussaud's, a wax figure exhibition hall in London. This is a museum that gathers together figures of notable people from the past. The figures are made of wax, and their appearances—faces, hair, beards, and even skin tones—are just like those of living people.

In the first hall were the current emperor, empress, crown prince, and crown princess, all dressed in embroidered silk garments. In other halls were emperors and empresses of past generations who had made distinguished contributions, as well as the emperors, presidents, heroes, warriors, and other famous figures from various countries. Among these were Li Hongzhang, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Otto von Bismarck, along with all the governmental ministers from those times. In addition, there were scenes such as soldiers in a mountain valley supporting others who had been killed or wounded in battle; scenes of criminals being punished; and scenes of a war victory, receiving the enemy's surrender. Altogether, it was a truly spectacular sight.

After leaving the museum and heading back, we came to a garden. I could not tell how many ri³⁷ the circumference was, but the entire garden was enclosed on all sides by an iron fence, and at the entrance stood a stone gate. The gate was very tall and imposing, and upon entering, we saw that all the roads were laid out in an orderly # shape, resembling a large Go board. All kinds of rare and beautiful trees and exotic flowers dazzled our eyes, and the fragrance of blossoms filled the air. Tens of thousands of chairs were arranged throughout; they were round in shape and green in color, like lotus leaves spread across the ground. Every evening at sunset, countless visitors—men and women, young and old—came to view the flowers, so many people that it was difficult to comprehend their number. It was really like another world. At the center of the garden stood a grand stone building of an imposing scale. The stone pedestals at each of the four corners were carved into human figures, and atop the middle of the stone tower stood a large golden statue of a grand form. We were told it represents the consort of the British sovereign³⁸. In general, Westerners love flowers. Flowerpots are placed both inside and outside of doorways for decoration, and women wear fresh flowers in their hair while men wear them on their lapels. Flowers are even placed on the dinner table.

At 9 p.m., a secretary from the Foreign Office, *Posyeonbui*, came and guided us to the parliament building for a visit. In the center of the chamber was an arched room where the Speaker sat, and in front of the Speaker's seat was a table. A national treasure was placed on the table, and beside it was an object called a *gukpyo*, cast in pure gold and shaped like a pestle. In front of the table stood another large desk piled with various documents, where three clerks were seated. Centered around this area, members of the ruling government party were seated in rows to the right, while members of the opposition party sat in rows to the left. When someone wished to speak, they

³⁷ This phrase would mean the equivalent of not being able to tell how many kilometers long something is.

³⁸ This refers to the spouse of the British ruler. In this case, it refers to the husband of the late Queen Victoria.

would rise one at a time, state the motion, and then engage the members in open and unreserved debate. If the two sides could not ultimately reach an agreement, a vote would be conducted, and the decision would be carried out according to the majority. Nearby, there was a section for newspaper reporters, who recorded the members' speeches and debates to report on. We heard that the subject debated on that day exclusively concerned matters of taxation.

18th (13th), Cloudy

Minister Min Yeong-don came to visit, and Morgan, the honorary British Consul, sent his calling card to inquire after our well-being.

19th (14th), Cloudy

An invitation was sent in advance by the British ceremonial office. It stated that our seating for the coronation had been assigned to the eighth tier. The British Army Commander-in-Chief, *Robeosseu*, and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Keurinbon*, had come to visit us, but we happened to be out, so we were unable to meet them. They left after leaving their calling cards for us.

At 7 p.m., the four members of our party took a train to the Crystal Palace to watch a fireworks show. It is said that the grounds of the Crystal Palace cover 30 million square meters. Electric lights, both inside and out, above and below, shone like a sky full of twinkling stars. Behind the building, there was a large pond surrounded by a stone railing carved with intricate patterns in white stone. In the middle of the pond, an artificial mountain had been erected with strange rocks, and it was filled with flowers and plants. There were small boats, and men and women eagerly competed to ride them, enjoying themselves on the water.

We were guided by the superintendent of the Crystal Palace and his attendant to a small pavilion. The pavilion was large enough to accommodate eight or nine people, and its floor was covered with crimson silk. We were told that this is the place where the British emperor watched the fireworks. Directly below the pavilion was the site of the fireworks display. The electric lights filling the grounds made it look like a forest of flames.

The crowd of spectators was so dense that it looked like a sea of people. Soon, after the military band finished playing, several thunderous cannon-like explosions rang out. Fiery rockets suddenly shot up from the ground and into the sky, forming shapes like countless wooden boats. Amidst the chaotic roar of explosions in the air, the rockets burst apart and scattered as they fell, like a rain of multicolored fire descending from the sky, as smoke and flames filled the heavens. This display of fireworks continued for more than half an hour.

To the left and right of the front of the pavilion were iron frames more than 10 gil³⁹ in length. Mounted onto the frames were large iron wheels, and within those were smaller wheels. Hanging in clusters like this, they looked like goose eggs. The goose egg-like lamps looked as though marbles had been thrown onto them and beans had been scattered about. As they swayed, they flashed brilliantly, and soon we heard sharp popping sounds. Tens of thousands of fire lamps split open and burst apart, blazing with light as they exploded, much like water gushing forth from a fountain.

When this spectacle came to an end, the fiery wheels suddenly transformed into the shape of a huge elephant. With its long trunk and drooping ears, it moved about slowly, just like a living creature. Then, once again, the sound of explosions rang out and many fiery rockets shot up from the ground. On top of the large wheel on the iron frame at the right side, a single peony bloomed. Its leaves were green and its flower was red, and butterflies fluttered about, chasing one another. In front of this stood another large iron frame, more than 10 jang⁴⁰ in height, with several hundred sections.

Suddenly, the sound of explosions rang out as the lights lit up all at once upon the iron frame, and two illuminated figures stood towering like mountains. Upon closer look, I realized they were none other than the British emperor and empress. Without delay, the blasts continued, and from the iron frame with its hundreds of sections, long lines in the shape of the character “—” burst forth⁴¹. The force of the flames poured down like a waterfall from a cliff one thousand gil⁴² tall, one half a cascade of white and one half a cascade of yellow. The sound of the falling spray rose loudly, and sparks filled the air like drifting snow. Even the most skilled writer could not describe the scene properly.

Spectacles continued like this for about an hour before coming to an end. On the open ground in front of the iron frame, there were also two fire-carts, each with a performer seated atop and carrying twin flames. The two carts raced each other: one sped forward as if it were flying, while the other, being mechanically inferior, gradually fell behind. The performer on the losing cart got down and moved to repair the mechanism, while the leading cart had already reached the agreed-upon finish line and its performer leapt down and danced upon the cart. This was called a fire-cart race.

Shortly after, as we looked out over the open ground, the sound of cannon fire rang out and fiery rockets filled the sky. The booming of the guns, bursting above and below, roared as if the heavens were collapsing and the Earth sinking, leaving our ears numb. Many spectators were

³⁹ One gil refers to the height of an average person.

⁴⁰ More than 10 jang is equal to roughly more than 30 meters.

⁴¹ Here, the author uses the Hanja character meaning "one," which looks like a long dash, to describe the shape of the light as the fireworks dart outwards.

⁴² One gil refers to the height of an average person.

overwhelmed by the sound and could only stand there like dazed scarecrows. At last, music sounded to signal the end of the fireworks display. When we asked about the expenses for that night's fireworks show, we were told that it amounted to over one million won⁴³. The costs were covered with the support of social organizations, and the revenue from ticket sales that night was reported to be nearly ten times the cost of the fireworks.

20th (15th), Cloudy and rain

We sent our calling cards in response to the British Army Commander-in-Chief and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. Today, the Foreign Office secretary *Sseudon* and Qing Minister to Britain Zhang Deok-i left their calling cards.

At 11 a.m., we inspected a British prison. It was a five-story brick building surrounded by a high wall. It had a double iron gate. There were over one thousand prisoners serving sentences, each confined within an individual cell, and men and women prisoners were housed separately. Everything was kept very clean. Meals were provided three times per day, and all portions were weighed on a scale. This was to ensure that the amount of food stayed consistent.

Within the prison grounds, there was a physician who treated illnesses, and each day after a meal, a guard would come and lead the prisoners to the exercise yard within the prison grounds to allow them exercise. This routine was done out of concern that prisoners might fall ill due to low spirits. Each prisoner was made to cultivate a means of livelihood, and the government calculated their daily work output and deposited half of its value into the bank to be used for living expenses after the prisoner's release.

There was a church within the prison grounds, and each Sunday, prisoners were made to attend worship services. Prisoners were also made to bathe once every two weeks. This is what it means to make laws with the people's best interest at heart.

21st (16th), Cloudy, then clear skies

We sent our calling cards in response to the British Foreign Office Secretary and the Qing Minister. At 2 p.m., we went to visit the Korean Legation. When we returned to the hotel at 11 p.m., one police officer and two soldiers had set up a guard post outside of the entrance and were standing watch night and day to protect our party. Whenever we went out, the officer and soldiers would salute us respectfully and ask the carriage driver about our destination. When the officer raised his hand and indicated the direction with a finger, the officers lined along the road would pass the signal along in the same manner to indicate the path of the carriage. When we entered or left, a red carpet was laid from the carriage door to the outside of the hotel, which we

⁴³ One million won is equal to about 25 billion Korean won today, or roughly 16 million USD.

walked upon. The carriage driver wore a red wool tailcoat and a formal hat adorned with gold. Once the carriage set off and the signal was passed along, all other carriages on the road would stop and pedestrians would move aside. Seeing this, it seems that the ceremonial observation of class distinction is even more strict in the West than in the East.

22nd (17th), Cloudy, then rain

We received an invitation from the British royal household. It stated that a banquet would be held tomorrow at 8 p.m. for the British emperor and empress to receive the royal princes and ambassadors of various countries.

23rd (18th) Cloudy, then clear skies

We visited the office at the palace of the British crown prince, sitting down to talk after exchanging greetings with a handshake. The crown prince's residence was rich and splendid. It gave the impression that "Where one lives changes one's spirits, and what one eats changes one's body." After saying goodbye to the crown prince and returning to the hotel, we received a calling card from the crown prince to express his regard for our visit and to apologize for not being able to come visit us himself. He expressed his regret at not being able to fully show his sincerity due to his busy schedule.

We heard that beginning today, meals would be provided by the royal kitchen. A royal prince was also to hold a banquet at Buckingham Palace. The British emperor, maintaining a sense of restraint and moderation, did not attend in person, but the empress did. The crown prince, serving as host, attended together with the crown princess. The seating arrangements at the event were as follows: the Japanese prince was in the third seat at the same table as the crown prince; the Korean prince was in the fourth seat at the same table as the crown princess; the Qing prince was in the sixth seat at the crown princess's table. After the banquet ended, the four members of our party had an audience with the empress. At 12 a.m., we returned to the hotel.

24th (19th), Cloudy

The British emperor's illness has become severe, so the coronation ceremony has been postponed. Due to this matter, we sent a telegram back to the Korean palace. The Belgian prince, the Minister *Ingeulbuisui*, the Deputy Lieutenant *Eorowimuriga*, and the Minister Plenipotentiary *Nalnaeng* all came and left their calling cards.

At 2 p.m., the four of us went to the royal palace to inquire after the British emperor's health, and we left our calling cards before leaving. We also left calling cards for the princes of Denmark, Greece, Japan, Qing, etc., as well as the British imperial uncle, before returning.

We walked along the main thoroughfare on our way back. London is already a great metropolis, and in celebration of the coronation festival, they had decorated the balconies of tall buildings and lined both sides of the main streets with flowers. Silk fabrics were hung here and there so that hues of gold and blue glittered brilliantly. Along the roadside, long tables stretching for thousands of kan⁴⁴ had been set up and arranged in tiers, and red and purple carpets were laid out, making it feel as if one were walking within a painting of the spring landscape.

This road is the route along which the British emperor will pass in the royal carriage during the coronation. The princes⁴⁵ of each country, as well as the ambassadors and representatives of various nations, will sit here to watch. Even among this seating, there is an order of rank distinguished from high to low. At that time, when the celebratory delegations of various countries and the citizens of London gather in crowds, and the carriages and pedestrians pack the streets densely and rush along the main roads like shooting stars, the scene of these streets will become an incomparably splendid spectacle to behold.

25th (20th), Clear skies

We sent our calling cards to the hotel where the crown prince of Siam and the princes of Belgium and Germany were staying. The British Lord Chamberlain sent an aide to convey his respects and give us an imperial message, which stated, “Due to illness, the coronation ceremony cannot be carried out as planned, but the protocols of reception by the ceremonial officials will remain unchanged. We ask that you stay comfortably and do not think about leaving in a hurry.”

26th (21st), Clear skies

As the coronation ceremony had been postponed, the congratulatory delegations from each country began returning to their home countries one after another. Our party, too, sent a telegram to the Korean palace to ask whether we might return. This was a telegram officially requesting permission to return, as the ceremony had been postponed indefinitely. The contents of the telegram were as follows:

“Because the British emperor’s illness has shown no improvement, the coronation ceremony has been postponed indefinitely. Although the Lord Chamberlain sent us an imperial message to reassure the envoys of each country, in reality, the delegations of Europe are each hastening to return home. As we do not dare to decide on this matter on our own authority, we humbly request that an imperial order be issued instructing us to return at once.”

⁴⁴ One thousand kan is equal to roughly 2,700 meters.

⁴⁵ The Korean phrase used here may include royalty such as the king’s brothers, uncles, and sons.

At 10 a.m., we went to the British royal palace and inquired after the emperor's health from outside the palace gate, then left our calling cards and came back. We delivered three items to the Imperial Household Department that the Korean Emperor had sent as gifts to the British emperor.

At 7 p.m., a reception official came and invited us to go out to the riverside for some fresh air. Accordingly, the four of us left the hotel by carriage and arrived at the riverside, which was about 20 ri⁴⁶ away from our lodging. The pavilion on the riverside was open and very refreshing, with an excellent view and spacious grounds for exercise in the rear garden. Both the upper and lower floors were paved with stone and enclosed by stone railings. The stone railings extended for over one hundred kan⁴⁷, and a figure was carved into each of the stone pillars. Atop each stone figure's head was a stone flowerpot in which flowers had been planted. Past the railings, trees grew thickly, and the sight of small boats drifting on the river looked as if lotus leaves had been scattered densely across the water. As we strolled along the riverside and recited verses to each other, we suddenly forgot the cares of the world. There were more than a hundred men and women visitors at the riverside, and some sang songs or danced while others enjoyed themselves freely as they wished. After having dinner there, our party took the carriage back. Trees were planted neatly on either side of the road, and electric lights hung in a line like sparkling stars. We climbed into the carriage, all a bit tipsy, and our spirits were greatly refreshed. A line of verse came to my lips naturally, "The carriage flows on like running water, and the horse gallops on like a dragon." We arrived at the hotel at 11 p.m.

27th (22nd), Clear skies

We sent a telegram to the palace with the following message:

"Because the congratulatory delegations of Japan and Qing are said to be returning around the end of this month, would it be appropriate if we also return? It would be very difficult to return via the Siberian Railway, but there is a ship departing from here on the 1st of the month by way of the Indian Ocean that seems to be a convenient passage, so we respectfully ask for your prompt orders."

At 8 a.m., a reception official guided the four of us to inspect the fire brigade headquarters. The institution was established to respond to fires in the city of London. There were fire hoses for spraying water, and tall iron ladders to connect each level. They demonstrated the fire suppression operations step-by-step so that we could observe the firefighting procedures.

⁴⁶ 20 ri is equal to roughly 7.8 kilometers.

⁴⁷ Over one hundred kan is equal to roughly over 270 meters.

Suddenly, the fire alarm sounded due to a case of smoke and flames rising from a multi-story building, and the firefighters rushed out, each of them carrying their assigned equipment. First, they set up a multi-tiered iron ladder, whereupon one man climbed up and into the burning building. He carried an injured person on his shoulders as he descended back down the ladder. Afterward, the firefighters spread a large cloth beneath the burning building, and dozens of men ran in and surrounded the cloth on all sides, holding it up and pulling tightly so that the cloth was raised several *ja*⁴⁸ above the ground. This was done so that if someone jumped from the burning building into the center of the cloth, they would not be injured. Then, some firefighters used fire hoses to spray water downward from above, while others shot water upward from below. The force of the water was as strong as a sudden downpour, and the fire was gradually extinguished. Judging by the scale of such equipment and the speed of the firefighters' response, the feat would not have been possible without formal training in firefighting.

Whether near or far, if a fire were to break out and a person rushed to the front of the fire station or used the telephone to report it, then the fire chief would consult a map to determine the fire's exact location and ring the bell to summon and direct the firefighters.

The firefighters put on iron helmets and wear protective gear over their bodies, load the firefighting equipment onto carriages, and then set out all at once to extinguish the fire. If the fire chief requires additional manpower, he telephones the branch stations, and we heard that some 80 branches mobilize their personnel simultaneously and convene. As the population of London is dense, there are many fire alarms every day; on days without any alarms, the firefighters do not rest idly, but instead receive training or train horses inside the station.

At 3 p.m., we went to the Korean Legation and sent a telegram to the palace, stating, "We have sent several telegrams and wonder if they have been received. The British emperor's illness remains severe, and the congratulatory delegations of three countries—Japan, Qing, and Germany—have carried out a wreath-laying ceremony at the late British monarch's royal tomb. It seems appropriate to follow the British custom, but as we do not dare act on our own authority, we await your instructions." We returned to the hotel at 11 p.m.

28th (23rd), Clear skies

The four of us went to an arena to watch a ball game played on horseback⁴⁹. The riders were brave and the horses were strong, drawing rounds of applause from the audience.

29th (24th), Clear skies

⁴⁸ One *ja* is equal to roughly 30.3 centimeters.

⁴⁹ The author is referring to the sport of polo, which is played on horseback.

We received a royal telegram. It stated that if the congratulatory delegations of other countries were departing, then we, too, may depart on the 1st.

30th (25th), Clear skies

As we had been sitting in the hotel for a long time and felt somewhat low in spirits, the four of us, together with a reception official, went to look around amusement grounds. Amidst countless large buildings winding and twisting, electric lights were strung in rows like stars, shining so brightly that it seemed like broad daylight. In rows of stalls and shops, gold and silver treasures were piled up like mountains, and mannequins made of white wax, resembling people of old, were dressed in splendid silk garments. The array of colors was beyond description.

In the center of the amusement ground stood a large iron framework, some hundreds of cheek⁵⁰ in height. A great iron wheel was mounted atop the frame, the size of which was also beyond measure. What seemed to be hundreds of iron carriages were attached around the outer rim of the wheel, resembling first-class railway cars. People would sit inside the carriages, and through the power of electricity, the iron wheel was made to turn and carry people upward. It revolved and ascended, and as it reached the very top of the structure, it seemed as if one's body was floating high amongst the clouds. When we reached the very top and looked down at the people, they appeared as if a swarm of ants crawling over a millstone—it was truly a magnificent sight.

In another area, there were several small boats that people were scrambling to get on, so we, too, boarded one. The boat moved via electricity, following the waterway on its own into a stone-walled cave. The waterway was so narrow that only a single boat could pass through at a time, but the deeper we went, the more impressive it became. On both sides of the stone walls, there were carved representations of mountains, streams, plants, and animals. When illuminated by the electric lights, they looked exactly like the real thing. The designs were truly ingenious.

July 1st (26th), Cloudy, then rain

At 11 a.m., we received an invitation stating that the British emperor would hold a military parade. The four of us entered the palace grounds. We sat down in our designated seats and waited, noticing that the British troops and troops of various dependencies were drawn up in a formation of rows. The commanding officers and field officers directing the troops were dressed in full uniform with breast armor that covered the front and back. They mounted on horseback as they gave commands, and their military bearing was orderly and disciplined. With the troops arrayed in formation, the British empress entered in a carriage.

⁵⁰ 100 cheek is equal to roughly 3 meters.

The British emperor was unable to attend the military parade in person due to his illness. In his stead, the crown prince, dressed in full regalia, entered the grounds in a carriage as the representative. The citizens who had gathered stood densely packed together, some removing their hats and others waving handkerchiefs and cheering. Their shouts rose like mountains trembling and seas surging, but when a whistle sounded, and drums were struck loudly three times, the clamor ceased at once. The empress and crown prince, accompanied by several commanding and field officers, inspected each unit before returning to stand at their designated positions. Then, as the military band played loudly, the marching parade began. Each unit advanced in an orderly formation, and as they passed the crown prince, they gave a salute.

After the parade ended, the empress and crown prince departed, and the soldiers at last stood at ease. Our party also left to return to the hotel. On our way back, we stopped by the Korean Legation.

At 11 p.m., an invitation arrived stating that a dinner banquet would be held at the residence of the Foreign Minister, so our party attended. We returned to the hotel at midnight.

2nd (27th), Cloudy

We received an invitation stating that Indian troops would be conducting military drills, so we entered the parade grounds accompanied by Minister Min. The Indian soldiers were large in build, with dark faces and blue eyes. They wrapped their heads with multicolored cloths, walked around barefoot, and were equipped with various arms such as lances, spears, and swords over their shoulders. Small flags were attached to the tips of the spears. The commanding and field officers were British, and the rest of the ceremonial procedures were the same as the previous day's parade. The attendants accompanying and guarding the empress numbered only 50 or 60, whereas the crown prince's guard exceeded one hundred people.

3rd (28th), Cloudy, then clear skies

At 11 a.m., a reception official came and invited us to go to the Office of Royal Carriages to view the regalia used by the emperor. The carriage used by the emperor was quite plain in form, but it was decorated with gold. This golden carriage was said to have been made 120 years ago. Golden figures were set at the four corners of the carriage, and the interior was adorned with silk and jewels. It was so large and heavy that it required eight horses to pull it.

The carriages that were to be used for the coronation ceremony had been created by combining both modern and traditional styles; they were decorated with gold and painted red, which dazzled the eyes. The carriages to be used by the empress and the crown prince were much the same. In the stables, there were eight horses that would draw the golden carriage: milk-white horses

without a single stray hair on their bodies. From hoof to back, they measured more than one gil, and from tail to head, they also exceeded one gil⁵¹. Their color resembled autumn water, and they were extremely fine, powerful horses. When they were led out of the stable, they let out a majestic cry as if ready to dash off across the whole world. Their temperaments were also gentle when I stroked them. In addition, there were eight black horses, similar in form. Beyond these, it was impossible to know how many thousands of other fine horses were there. The horses were said to be of the ancient Dayuan breed.

We received a royal telegram from Korea stating that it would be permissible for us to carry out a wreath-laying ceremony at the royal tomb of the late British monarch.

4th (29th), Clear skies

The four of us boarded a train eastward, traveling for one hour before arriving at the station to carry out the wreath-laying ceremony at the royal tomb of the late British monarch. A designated carriage was waiting there for us. We rode the carriage to Windsor Castle. An official of the palace received our party. Upon entering through the palace gate, we saw that along the walls on all sides, various weapons like large and small guns and swords had been arranged in cross displays, their blades gleaming like icicles. Armor and helmets of both new and old styles had been placed on a table, along with two broadswords. Each sword was over two cheok⁵² in length, and its silver gleam was dazzling to the eyes. When I held one in my hand, it was very light and wieldy, and if I grasped the hilt and shook it, it gave off a soft sound. I swung the sword to test it out, and it moved smoothly with the body, leaving no room for doubt. We were told the swords were unlike any others in the world. To the left and right sides of the doors stood bronze figures dressed in armor and helmets, and mounted on bronze horses; it was a very imposing appearance.

Along the walls on all sides were photographs or small statues made of gold and jade. These were said to represent figures of national merit who had made great contributions to the country. The palace rose up high, and inside was a council chamber, reception rooms, banquet halls, resting rooms, a ballroom, and many other rooms. The insides were filled with rare curios and precious artifacts. All of these items had been brought as gifts from various countries, and they were items and vessels used by the emperor in his daily life.

There was one chair made of polished wood to resemble jade, and in the center of the backrest, a single jewel of roughly the size of a goose egg had been set. When we asked about the chair's

⁵¹ One gil refers to the height of an average person.

⁵² Two cheok is equal to roughly 60.6 centimeters.

value, we were told it was worth tens of thousands of won⁵³, and the exact price was impossible to determine.

After walking out of Windsor Castle's palace door, we proceeded to the royal tomb of the late monarch. Upon entering the cross-shaped stone structure, one man and one woman, the caretakers of the mausoleum, came to receive us. Inside the stone structure was a stone platform extending about two kan⁵⁴ on all sides, with a height of about one gil⁵⁵. Upon the platform lay two figures carved from white jade stone. It appeared exactly as if they were lying beneath silk bedding. These two figures represented the late monarch and her consort, made in the likeness of how they appeared in life. We were told that the bodies of Queen Victoria and her husband were interred within the stone platform.

5th (June 1st), Clear skies

At 8 a.m., we visited the Korean Legation and returned shortly after.

6th (2nd), Cloudy, then clear skies

We visited the British royal palace, presented our calling cards, and informed them that we would be returning to our home country. After returning to the hotel, we sent a telegram back to the palace to report that we had carried out the wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of the late British monarch, as well as to inform them of our upcoming departure by way of the Indian Ocean.

7th (3rd), Clear skies

At 11 a.m., the four members of our party arrived at the station and boarded a train to leave England and begin our journey home. Officials from the British Imperial Household and the Foreign Office came out to the station to see us off, and Consul Goffe, *Posyeonbui*, Minister Min Yeong-don, and Yi Gi-hyeon accompanied us. At 1 p.m., we arrived at the port of Dover. We all exchanged handshakes with those who had come to see us off, and shed tears as we bid them farewell.

The four of us then boarded a ship and departed from the port of Dover, arriving at the port of Calais at around 2 p.m. This harbor forms the boundary region between England and France. On both the eastern and western shores of the Strait of Dover, mounts had been installed with dozens of cannons, and the defenses were extremely strict.

⁵³ 10,000 won is equal to about 250 million Korean won today, or roughly 170,000 USD.

⁵⁴ Two kan is equal to roughly 5.4 meters.

⁵⁵ One gil refers to the height of an average person.

At Calais, we went to an inn to have lunch and then soon boarded a train bound for Paris. At Paris Station, the Korean Minister to France, Min Yeong-chan, together with a secretary and a clerk, came out to meet us. A French official from the ceremonial bureau, as well as the Foreign Minister, also came out to receive us. After arriving at a hotel and having dinner, we boarded a train together and arrived at the next station. There, we parted ways and spent the night sleeping in the carriage.

In general, the extravagance of French civilization surpassed that of England. This must be the reason why English elders often remark that if one wishes to ruin a young boy, they need only send him to Paris.

8th (4th), Clear skies

We rode the train and arrived at Genoa, Italy, where we spent the night at the *Gwirangdo* Hotel. It is generally known that Italy has fertile land and devotes much effort to agriculture. Even when the wheat ripens to a golden yellow, snow still remains piled upon the mountains. There are many rocky mountains, and tunnels have been cut through the mountains for the railways. Passing through these long tunnels took over an hour.

9th (5th), Clear skies

At 11 a.m., the four of us took a carriage to the docks and boarded the German passenger ship *Ggoikalbo*. This ship was a luxurious liner of 10,600 tons. In preparation for an 11 a.m. departure, the band rang the horn three times, and we said our farewells to Consul Goffe before he returned. Having spent some 60 to 70 days together in close companionship both day and night, we all parted with heavy hearts.

10th (6th), Clear skies

At 11 a.m., the ship arrived at the port of Naples. The city is very wealthy and has a population of 500,000, but it is swarming with thieves and beggars. As soon as the passenger ship docked at the harbor, these people came forward as if they had been lying in wait. They rode small boats or wooden planks right up beneath the ship, singing and dancing or swimming as they looked up at the passengers on board and begged for alms. When passengers on the ship threw money into the sea, the beggars would dive into the water headfirst, retrieve the coins, and come back up. The harbor police strictly prohibited the practice of diving for money, likely out of concern that the beggars would dive too deep and become fish food. We disembarked briefly and walked onto the pier, but as the weather was extremely hot, we returned to the ship.

11th (7th), Clear skies

At 9 a.m., the passenger ship arrived at Stromboli. At 11 a.m., it passed the port of Sicily. This region has many volcanoes, so by night, you can see flames from eruptions on the mountain peaks, and by day, smoke is visible. Previously, while our party was voyaging across the Pacific, we heard that there had been a volcano in Italy where thunder-like sounds emerged from the mountain summit for four or five days, and when the mountain collapsed, more than 40,000 people were killed⁵⁶. When we passed the port of Naples yesterday, that place was only a few ri⁵⁷ away from the harbor, so passengers competed with each other to go and see the site of the volcano eruption. Our party also wished to go see it, but we were too fatigued from the journey to do so. Our party was traveling on the same ship as the Crown Prince of Siam, so we met and interacted with him frequently.

12th (8th), Clear skies

Upon looking at the thermometer, I saw that it reached 60 degrees⁵⁸.

13th (9th), Clear skies

A German officer sent us his calling card, so we also sent one in return out of courtesy.

14th (10th) Clear skies

At 5 a.m., the passenger ship anchored at an Egyptian port. Our party disembarked and went sightseeing, but observing the people and the scale of the houses here from a Western point of view made them seem very crude. Many men and women went about barefoot. Married women wore black garments⁵⁹, similar to the outer garment worn by women from our country, which has no sleeves. They wore the garment over their heads and were covered from the mouth to the nose with a black cloth. They also wore an ornament made of three bamboo segments decorated with tin, which hung from the top of their head down to the tip of their nose. Water was scarce in this place, so people carried it from distant locations in a goatskin pouch. Some people carried the pouch on their backs, while others transported it by mule or camel. The products of the area included cattle, sheep, gold, silver, precious jewels, tin, lead, and tobacco.

⁵⁶ The author is likely referring to Vesuvius, which was particularly active during this time period. His comment about 40,000 casualties is likely a misunderstanding, as no single event matches this description.

⁵⁷ One ri is equal to about 393 meters, or 0.39 kilometers.

⁵⁸ The author is likely referring to 60 degrees Fahrenheit (about 15 degrees Celcius).

⁵⁹ The author is likely referring to a chador, a large cloth worn by some Muslim women, which includes a head covering, veil, and shawl.

At 2 p.m., we departed the port and arrived at the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal is said to have been created by the Frenchman Lesseps, who cut through the land to open a sea route for easier navigation. The canal is wide enough for a single ship to pass through, and its length is said to be 250 ri⁶⁰ in Eastern measurements. Its capacity allows for ships of many tens of thousands of tons to pass, and tolls are collected at a rate of 2 won per ton and 2 won per person⁶¹. At the time of the canal's opening, it was managed by the French, but now it is managed by the British. Upon looking out, we watched the yellow sands sweep across the pale grasses, able to truly take in the land's striking scenery.

15th (11th), Clear skies

The thermometer rose to 70 degrees⁶². At 5 a.m., we reached the Red Sea, where we rested briefly before setting sail again. The weather was extremely hot, and the mountains on either side of the harbor appeared red as if burning within the stifling heat. In ancient times, this was the region where Jesus led his disciples in preaching; it is called the Ras Dashen Mountain of Africa. Looking to the southwest of the ship, we saw what looked like a large boulder below the hill. According to the crew, about 17 years ago, a German ship had been wrecked there. As there are many reefs beneath these waters and shipwrecks occur frequently, it is left as a warning marker.

At 8 p.m., a ball was held on board the ship. They raised the flags of the various national companies, and a military band played. Pairs of men and women stood facing each other, with one arm around the woman's waist and the other hand clasped together as they turned to the left, stamped to the right, and spun around in rhythm. It was truly a sight to behold. Upon observing the customs, there was a clear distinction of rank between men and women, and those of lower status did not dare to dance with the nobility. This is one custom of the West.

16th (12th), Clear skies

The color of the sea was black, as if someone had poured ink into it. At times, debris of a deep yellow color drifted by like moss. Some people said the sea looked this way due to a high content of coral, some said it was because of water that had flowed down into it from the mountains, and others said it was because of the heat. But none of these explanations seemed to be believable.

17th (13th), Clear skies

⁶⁰ 250 ri is equal to roughly 97.5 kilometers.

⁶¹ 2 won is equal to about 50,000 Korean won today, or roughly 34 USD.

⁶² About 21 degrees Celcius.

The weather was extremely hot, and the thermometer read 93 degrees⁶³. Two Belgian consuls sent us their calling cards to pay their respects, so we also sent ours in return out of courtesy.

18th (14th), Clear skies

The thermometer reads 94 degrees⁶⁴. The coastal sea routes are dangerous, so lighthouses are installed at regular intervals, and at night they are lit up to facilitate the navigation of ships. Along the route from Egypt to here, the lighthouses are set up in succession so that they are visible to one another. Large, shark-like fish were swimming near the passenger ship. The crew pointed out these sea creatures and said that because people do not catch and eat them, many sharks gather close to where the people are.

19th (15th), Clear skies

At 4 a.m., the passenger ship arrived in Aden. This land is the Arabian Peninsula, the Dayuan⁶⁵ of old. Wherever the ship went, flocks of small birds flew by, similar to quails. They would fly in groups over the sea and then settle back down upon the water. At first, we wondered how there could be such flocks of birds over the endless ocean, so we asked a crew member. He told us these were not birds, but “flying fish.” We heard that because this place is close to the equator, the weather is always hot, the land is scorched black, and Black people live here. Because this place is like the “throat,” or gateway, to India, we heard that Britain stations many troops around here as guards. We departed at 11 a.m. and headed toward the Indian Ocean. The thermometer had dropped to 82 degrees⁶⁶.

20th (16th), Clear skies

The wind and waves grew strong, and many people became seasick. They seemed dazed, as if they were drunk on alcohol. The thermometer dropped again to 76 degrees⁶⁷. Many people put on winter clothing⁶⁸.

21st (17th), Clear skies

⁶³ About 33 degrees Celcius.

⁶⁴ About 34 degrees Celcius.

⁶⁵ The author seems to be mistaken about their location here. The ancient Dayuan region was actually northeast of the Arabian Peninsula.

⁶⁶ About 27 degrees Celcius.

⁶⁷ About 24 degrees Celcius.

⁶⁸ The author likely does not mean winter clothing in the modern sense, but rather the passengers were wearing more layers or thicker clothing to account for the drop in temperature.

The wind and waves grew even stronger than yesterday. The thermometer dropped to 67 degrees⁶⁹.

22nd (18th), Clear skies

The wind and waves continued as before. At 4 p.m., the wind and waves subsided, and the ship became peaceful.

23rd (19th), Clear skies

The wind had calmed, and the waves had died down, leaving the sea tranquil. The thermometer was the same as yesterday.

24th (20th), Clear skies

At 8 a.m., we passed by a small island. The island had a lighthouse and many lush trees, so the scenery was nice. When we asked about the name of the island, we were told it is called *Maekdo*.

25th (21st), Clear skies

At 2 p.m., the passenger ship entered the port of Colombo, and the four members of our party disembarked and went out beyond the pier. The local men and women went around without clothing, appearing almost like ghosts rather than human beings. Their bodies were dark, and they covered only the lower part of their bodies with short skirts or cloths. Those with at least a slight sense of modesty wore a short jacket and had their hair tied in a topknot or cut short. Barefoot women and children stood in rows along both sides of the road, begging for coins. The soil was a reddish-black color, and the houses were extremely poor. There were some Western-style inns and parks here and there, and they were similar to those of the West.

The products of this place include gold, silver, precious shells, hawksbill turtle, coral, etc., as well as cinnamon, coconut, palm, areca nut, and banana. The locals here have red lips and teeth, and when we asked the reason, we were told it is because they frequently chew coconut and areca nut.

Colombo is under the rule of British India. It is said that the ancient Buddhist land of the Western Regions is located about 5 ri⁷⁰ from this port, where there are Buddha statues and the tomb of the *Shakyamuni* Buddha.

⁶⁹ About 19 degrees Celcius.

⁷⁰ 5 ri is equal to roughly 1.95 kilometers.

We hired a carriage. The carriage was pulled by oxen, and the oxen were small in build with horns over one ja⁷¹ in length. Their bellies and spines were hunched, resembling camels. We commissioned a guide from among the ship's crew, who was familiar with the local geography, to take us to the temple. The design of the Buddhist hall was similar to that of our country. Behind the hall, a large stone pagoda stood on a stone platform; each side measured three or four kan⁷², and the height seemed to be several gil⁷³. Stone pillars stood on top of the platform, and above them was a pointed finial about the size of an egg, into which jewels had been set. They gave off a brilliant radiance upon catching the sunlight. It was said that the physical remains of the Buddha are enshrined within this pagoda. So, they call this "Buddha's Tomb." After viewing the pagoda, we went down to the main hall to see the Buddha statue, where an old man with a long beard and side whiskers, his hair tied into a topknot, came out to receive our party and open the doors of the temple for us.

Upon entering the main hall, there was another door that was locked. The monk was very slow in unlocking it for us. Rather than opening the door immediately, he explained all the Buddhist paintings hanging on the surrounding walls. The paintings depicted how blessings are bestowed upon the virtuous while calamities befall the immoral. Each of the members in our party placed a silver coin into the offering box in front of the door. Only then did the monk open the door for us and invite us inside. There were three Buddha figures on the platform: the right figure was a standing Buddha, the left figure was a seated Buddha, and the center figure was a reclining Buddha. The reclining Buddha was large in form, over two kan⁷⁴ in length, and shone the color of jade. Upon closer inspection, we realized the statue was made of wood. The eyes of the reclining Buddha sparkled with a flash-like brilliance, and when we asked about it, we heard that jewels had been set into its eyes.

Although the Shakyamuni Buddha was born in India, it is said that this was the place where he shaved his head and cut his nails. All of us were born in the East, having heard stories of Buddha in the Western Regions since childhood, and now we were finally here, seeing the Buddha's image in person. It was something we had never once imagined, and it was truly a magnificent sight.

After looking around some more, we turned back to leave the temple and rode the carriage to an inn on the northern coast. There, we rested briefly, drank tea, and had a few cups of alcohol. We then went back to the harbor, ate dinner at an inn there, and returned to the passenger ship at 11 p.m. Before long, the ship set sail eastward. Below the mountains, amid thickly overgrown

⁷¹ One ja is equal to roughly 30.3 centimeters.

⁷² 3 or 4 kan is equal to roughly 8.1 to 10.8 meters.

⁷³ One gil refers to the height of an average person.

⁷⁴ Over 2 kan is equal to roughly over 5.4 meters.

vegetation, was a single building surrounded by a large wall. When we asked about it, we were told it was a prison where prisoners from Transvaal⁷⁵ were being held.

The thermometer read the same as yesterday.

26th (22nd), Clear skies

In the afternoon, rough wind and waves arose and troubled the passengers. The thermometer was the same as yesterday.

27th (23rd), Cloudy

Late at night, thunder and lightning struck, and the wind and waves grew violent. The waves of the open sea looked like great mountains.

28th (24th), Clear skies

The rough wind and waves continued.

29th (25th), Clear skies

Early in the morning, we went up onto the deck and let the cool breeze brush our faces. Atop the blue ocean, waves appeared like the color of milk. Looking southward, we saw a mountain peak of about the size of a fist rising up sharply, and a refreshed feeling came over us. The sailors referred to the peak as the Dutch island of Sumatra. The thermometer was the same as yesterday.

30th (26th), Cloudy, then clear skies

At 3 p.m., we arrived at the port of Penang. This place, too, is owned by Britain. We disembarked and toured Penang port briefly. Like in Colombo, the majority of the inhabitants are Chinese, and there are some Black people living among them. The women had their noses pierced with gold nose rings, and walked about barefoot. They also wore silver rings on their ankles, which was a fascinating sight. From here, we took a carriage to travel around the surrounding area, eventually reaching a mountain valley with a large garden. Throughout the valley, rare trees and exotic flowers created a rich atmosphere beyond description. The scenery of ponds and waterfalls was especially impressive. We returned to the ship at 11 p.m. As soon as we boarded, the ship set sail eastward.

From here, we are in the East.

⁷⁵ Also known as the South African Republic.

31st (27th), Clear skies

The surface of the sea was covered with yellowish moss, just as in the Red Sea. At 4 p.m., the ship arrived in Singapore, and our party disembarked to tour the city by carriage. We ate dinner at a Japanese inn and returned to the ship at 8 p.m. Singapore, too, is a British colony. The majority of residents are Chinese, with Western, Japanese, and Black people living among them. The products sold are similar to those of Colombo. Although the people are not as robust as those of the West, this is the foremost great metropolis of the East and a key hub connecting the East and West. Goods from all the countries of the East must first gather at this port before being exported to the West. The population of the harbor is immense, but the land is limited, so land prices are extremely high. It is said to cost 70 won per cheek⁷⁶.

August 1st (28th), Clear skies

The passenger ship set sail at 10 a.m. and headed eastward.

2nd (29th), Clear skies

The thermometer reached up to 70 degrees⁷⁷. The heat was so oppressive that it made us feel gloomy.

3rd (30th), Clear skies

At 9 p.m., we passed by Borneo. The weather was the same as yesterday.

4th (July 1st), Clear skies

I am recording the thermometer at 76 degrees⁷⁸.

5th (2nd), Clear skies

At 4 p.m., we arrived in Hong Kong. Of course, this place, too, is said to be a British colony. We disembarked and briefly toured the city.

6th (3rd), Clear skies, and then rain

⁷⁶ 70 won is equal to about 1,750,000 Korean won today, or roughly 1,185 USD. One cheek is equal to roughly 30.3 centimeters.

⁷⁷ About 21 degrees Celcius.

⁷⁸ About 24 degrees Celcius.

At 10 a.m., the passenger ship set sail eastward. At 8 p.m., a heavy rain fell, followed by lightning and thunder.

7th (4th), Clear skies

The wind and waves rose up strongly.

8th (5th), Clear skies

Although there were no strong winds blowing, the ship was pitching severely. We could not endure the ship's motion. The crew said that this sea is the China Sea, and its waters have been rough like this since ancient times.

9th (6th), Clear skies and rain

At 3 p.m., the passenger ship arrived at Yesong. At 9 p.m., we took a small boat to the port of Shanghai. Our party toured the city extensively. Shanghai is full of people and is referred to as the "Little West." By coincidence, today is the day on which the British emperor is having the postponed coronation ceremony. At the British consulate in Shanghai and within the British concession, they are setting off a grand display of fireworks to celebrate the king's coronation. We entered a British-run inn and ate lunch and dinner. At 11 p.m., we returned to the passenger ship. The seawater at Yesong and Shanghai appeared yellow like muddy clay water, which seems to be why it is called the "Yellow River."

10th (7th), Cloudy

At 2 p.m., the passenger ship set sail eastward. The wind and waves rose up strongly.

11th (8th), Clear skies

At 11 p.m., we arrived in Nagasaki, Japan.

12th (9th), Clear skies

At 9 a.m., we disembarked and took lodging at a British-operated inn. This was the same inn we stayed at previously when we departed for England. We promptly sent a telegram to the palace to report our arrival in Nagasaki.

13th (10th), Clear skies

14th (11th), Clear skies

15th (12th), Clear skies

16th (13th), Clear skies and rain

At 3 p.m., we were supposed to board the Japanese merchant ship *Daedonghwan*, but a sudden heavy rain fell and overturned all the containers, soaking the cargo. As a result, we had no choice but to postpone our departure until 3 a.m. the next day.

17th (14th), Clear skies

The ship set sail at 3 a.m. We arrived at the port of Eomwon on Japan's Daema Island at 2 p.m., where we rested briefly. We departed again at 9 p.m.

18th (15th), Clear skies

At 6 a.m., we arrived at the port of Busan. We disembarked and went to an inn. The Busan commissioner, along with clerks and police officials, came out to receive us. We boarded the ship and departed at 2 p.m.

19th (16th), Clear skies

At 2 p.m., the ship briefly anchored at Mokpo before setting sail again.

20th (17th), Clear skies and rain

Our ship arrived at the port of Incheon at 3 p.m. At 7 p.m., we took the train to Seoul, where we reported to the palace.

Glossary

Aden: Aden is an ancient port city located on the north coast of the Gulf of Aden. It used to be the capital of South Yemen until its union with North Yemen in 1990.

Adeulbui Hotel: This most likely refers to the Adelphi Hotel, which was the most popular hotel in the city for wealthy passengers during this period.

Ampuraswi: This is likely a transliteration of "Empress," referring to one of three Canadian Pacific liners: RMS Empress of Japan, RMS Empress of China, or RMS Empress of India. It is likely they traveled on the Empress of Japan, as it follows the same routes and dates.

Anglo-American War: In the United States, this war is also referred to as the "War of 1812."

Areum: One areum is equal to about the span of both arms stretched wide, from fingertip to fingertip. This is equal to roughly 1.7 meters.

Borneo: During this time, the island of Borneo would have been under British rule. It is currently within the countries of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei.

British Nautical Mile: One British nautical mile is equal to about 1,852 meters. The measurement was based on one minute of latitude along a meridian, and the author uses the term "nautical mile" in all further entries to mean this same measurement.

Chador: The author sees this garment in Egypt, which is a large cloth worn by some Muslim women and includes a head covering, veil, and shawl.

Cheek: One cheek is equal to roughly 30.3 centimeters.

Colombo: Colombo is the capital city of Sri Lanka. At this time, the island would have been referred to as Ceylon, which was under British rule. The country gained independence in 1948, and the official name became the Republic of Sri Lanka in 1972.

Consort of British Sovereign: This refers to the spouse of the British ruler. In this case, it refers to the husband of the late Queen Victoria.

Daema Island: Daema Island is a Korean name used for modern-day Tsushima Island in Japan.

Date System: The author refers to years at the beginning of the text using both the emperor title system (Sixth Year of Gwangmu's Reign) and the Sexagenary Calendar, which has a name for

each year in the 60-year cycle (Lunar Year of Imin, Lunar Year of Sinchuk). For months and days, the author writes the date according to the Gregorian Calendar first, and then includes the equivalent date in the Lunar Calendar. He notes the month name on the first day of each month, and then omits it for the following days.

Dayuan: This refers to the ancient Chinese civilization from the Fergana Valley region. In the present day, this area is located in the Middle East. However, it is not close to Aden in Yemen.

Dayuan Breed: This refers to a breed of horse described in early historical Chinese sources, called ‘heavenly’ horses. According to ancient mythology, the horses were fabled beings that flew through the heavens on wings and were closely related to dragons.

Degrees: The author is likely referring to the temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit.

Emperor Gojong: Emperor Gojong (birth name Yi Hui) was the 26th and last monarch of the Joseon Dynasty. He established the Korean Empire in 1897, at which time his title was changed from king to emperor. He is also sometimes referred to as "Gwangmu," which was the official name of his era of imperial rule.

Eorowimuriga: This is a transliteration of a Western name or title; it is unclear who the author is actually referring to.

Ggoikalbo: This most likely refers to the SS König Albert, which was roughly 10,600 tons and traveled the same route as described in the travelogue.

Gil: One gil refers to the height of an average person.

Girin: The author is not referring to an actual giraffe from Africa, but rather a mythical creature with the same name (girin) in Korean. According to East Asian mythology, a girin would appear before the birth of a great sage.

Great Lakes: The author mistakenly writes that there are three Great Lakes (Lake Superior, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan). In reality, there are five Great Lakes, including Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Gukpyo: Gukpyo refers to a symbol engraved with phrases expressing the nation’s virtues.

Gwirangdo Hotel: This possibly refers to The Grand Hotel Savoia, which was one of the main international hotels in Genoa.

H. Goffe: H. Goffe refers to the British Consul stationed in Incheon, Herbert Goffe. Although the travelogue often refers to the party as including four members, Goffe traveled with them as well. He parted ways with the envoy in Genoa, Italy.

Hongsalmun: This refers to a red-painted wooden gate erected in front of a royal tomb, mausoleum, shrine, palace, or government office.

Innuisseu: This likely refers to Major-General Sir Arthur Edward Augustus Ellis, who was involved in making the arrangements for Edward VII's coronation.

Ingdwisseu: This likely refers to a ship owned by the Messageries Maritimes company, which had routes between Nagasaki and Kobe at this time. Ads for the company's ships were also included in The Korea Daily News around this period.

Ingeulbisui: This is possibly "Anglesey," referring to Henry Cyril Paget, 5th Marquess of Anglesey (also known as Lord Anglesey).

J. McLeavy Brown: This refers to John McLeavy Brown, appointed to supervise the Korean customs organization from 1893 to 1905.

Ja: One ja is equal to roughly 30.3 centimeters.

Jang: One jang is equal to roughly 3.03 meters.

Jordan: Jordan refers to Sir John Newell Jordan, who was appointed as a British consul general of Korea in 1896 and then as a resident minister in 1901.

Kan: One kan is equal to roughly 2.7 meters.

Keuribon: This is likely a transliteration of "Cranborne," referring to James Gascoyne-Cecil, 4th Marquess of Salisbury and Viscount Cranborne from 1868 to 1903. At this time, he would have been serving as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

King's Illness: Edward VII was diagnosed with appendicitis, which was life-threatening at the time. The press reported widely about the situation, but the king was able to have a successful appendectomy and recovered well enough to have the coronation on August 9.

Lord Chamberlain: Although the author mistakes Chamberlain as a man's name, this actually refers to a position in the British Royal Household. The man who held this position at the time would have been Edward Villiers, 5th Earl of Clarendon.

Ma Se-eul: This is a transliteration of a Western name or title; it is unclear who the author is actually referring to.

Maekdo: This likely refers to the modern island of Minicoy in the Arabian Sea, which is a territory of India.

Magwan: Magwan is an earlier name used to refer to Shimonoseki, the westernmost city on Japan's main island, Honshu.

Mal and Doe: Mal and doe are measurements usually used for large volumes, such as rice and other grains. The author uses this to emphasize a large quantity of precious jewels and metals.

Morgan: Morgan refers to William Pritchard Morgan, who had been appointed as the Korean consul-general in London in the early 1900s. He was foremost a businessman, and he was interested in doing business in Korea.

Nalnaeng: This is possibly "Lalaing," referring to Charles Maximilien de Lalaing (also known as Count de Lalaing), who was a Belgian aristocrat and career diplomat.

Niagara River: Although not expressly stated in the text, the author implies that the water from Niagara Falls comes from the Niagara River.

Numiria: This likely refers to the SS Numidian, a transatlantic passenger steamship operated by the Allan Line, which had frequent routes from Quebec to England.

Nyang: Nyang was a measurement of precious metals like gold or silver, often used interchangeably with price amounts. One nyang is equal to roughly 37-38 grams.

Penang: At this time, Penang was under British control. It is now an island of modern-day Malaysia.

Posyeonbui: This transliterated name likely refers to Arthur Ponsonby, who was a secretary at the Foreign Office until his resignation later in 1902.

Proclamation to the Crocodiles: This text was written in the year 819 by Han Yu, a Tang Dynasty government official and poet. After a series of local crocodile attacks, Han Yu wrote this proclamation to banish the crocodiles.

Pyohunwon: This refers to the Office of Royal Decrees, a government office of the Korean Empire (1897-1910), which was in charge of issuing honors, commendations, pensions, badges, and foreign medals.

Ri: One ri is equal to about 393 meters, or 0.39 kilometers.

Robeosseu: This likely refers to Field Marshal Frederick Sleigh Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Forces before the post was abolished in 1904.

Roni: The ship's name can be interpreted as "Roni" or "Rossiya" in traditional Chinese characters, likely referring to one of several ships simply named "Russia," which were in service at this time.

Shakyamuni Buddha: Shakyamuni Buddha is the title given to Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. In the original Hanja text, "Shakyamuni Buddha" is often shortened to "Shakya Buddha," or simply "Shakya."

Seosarok: The title's literal meaning is "Historical Record of the West."

Shiro Taki Yama: This is the name of a mountain the party visits near Yokohama. The characters literally translate to "White Waterfall Mountain."

Siam: Siam refers to the modern-day country of Thailand; the official name changed in 1939.

Sseudon: This is likely a transliteration of "Sanderson," referring to Thomas Henry Sanderson, 1st Baron Sanderson. He served as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs between 1894 and 1906.

Su Wa Tai Sha: The author is likely describing a monument to the Great Shrine of Suwa ("Suwa Taisha"), which was located in Nagano. The Suwa Temple in Nagasaki was simply titled Shrine of Suwa ("Suwa Jinja") at the time of the party's visit.

Sumatra: The Netherlands established the Dutch East India Company in Sumatra and used it as a base for expansion into the East. The island is part of modern-day Indonesia.

Transvaal: This is a region of modern-day South Africa. The author passed by one of the British-operated camps for prisoners of war when the party stopped in Ceylon. POWs were captured during the South African War (1899-1902), fought between Great Britain and the two Boer republics, Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

Won: One won in 1902 is equal to about 25,000 Korean won today, or roughly 16 USD.

Yeo: Yeo refers to about one cartload, or one carriage load.

Yesong: This is an antiquated name referring to a port within the city of Shanghai, often referred to as Wussoong in modern Korean.

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